

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

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### NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR \$5 QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS

#### ALL MONEY ORDERS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE CONTRIBUTOR.

If you and your campaign workers collect \$5 in cash from a contributor, the contributor must sign the money order in order for the Commission to accept it as a qualifying contribution.

If the contributor prints their name on the money order, please ask them to sign it, too. If the money order is not signed, it will not be accepted and counted as a qualifying contribution.

Therefore, if you plan to use money orders, you should pre-purchase the money orders and carry them with you when collecting your \$5 qualifying contributions.

The contributor is not required to complete the address section of the money order. They may if they want to, but they must sign the money order.

*For the complete statutory and regulatory changes, the Commission recommends that you refer to P.L. 2007, Ch. 443 and the Commission's rules, which may be obtained on the Commission's website, [www.maine.gov/ethics](http://www.maine.gov/ethics).*

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2008 GENERAL ELECTIONS

MCEA CANDIDATES		
WHAT HAS CHANGED	OLD	NEW
<b>General Election Payment Amounts</b>	5% reduction from 2006 amounts	House amounts: \$4,144 contested; \$1,658 uncontested Senate amounts: \$19,078 contested; \$7,631 uncontested
<b>Qualifying Contributions</b>	Money orders did not have to be signed by the contributor.	<b>Money orders must be signed by the contributor.</b>
	Circulators of the Receipt and Acknowledgement forms did not have to sign the form (R&A) form.	If someone other than the candidate collects signatures and qualifying contributions, the circulator must sign the receipt and acknowledgement form (R&A form).
		It is a violation to misrepresent the purpose of the contribution or of signing the receipt and acknowledgement form.
<b>Online Qualifying Contributions</b>	(was not available in prior elections)	Individuals can now make \$5 qualifying contributions online on the Commission's website using a credit card. Online contributors' voter registration must still be verified by the town registrars.
<b>Payments to Family and Household Members</b>	(no prior disclosure requirement or approval procedure)	MCEA candidates must get approval from the Commission before using MCEA funds to pay a member of the candidate's household for campaign goods and services. The candidate must provide proof that the payment will be made 1) for legitimate campaign purposes, 2) to an individual or business that provides the goods and services in the normal course of business, and 3) in an amount that is reasonable in the current market for those goods and services. This also applies to businesses and non-profits affiliated with a member of the candidates household.  If a MCEA candidate makes a payment of MCEA funds to a member of the candidate's household or immediate family (even if they do not live with the candidate) or a business or non-profit affiliated with a member of the candidate's immediate family, the candidate must disclose the nature of the relationship (e.g., "spouse," "domestic partner," "brother," "roommate," etc.) in the remarks section of Schedule B of the campaign finance report.
<b>Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer</b>	A candidate could serve as their own treasurer and/or deputy treasurer.	MCEA candidates who register with the Commission after July 17, 2008, can not serve as their own treasurer and/or deputy treasurer.
<b>Certification Process</b>	Commission had no more than 3 business days to certify.	Commission may take additional time to certify a candidate if investigation is necessary to verify compliance.  (continued on back)

WHAT HAS CHANGED	OLD	NEW
<b>Certification Process (cont.)</b>	Candidates could submit photocopies of R&A forms to the Commission by the deadline as long as the verified original forms were received within 10 days.	Only original signed forms verified by the registrars and submitted by the deadline are acceptable.
	(did not exist in prior elections)	There are three new grounds for denial of certification: (1) A finding that candidate made a material false statement in a report or other document submitted to the Commission. 2) Certification previously denied or revoked due to substantial violations of campaign finance laws. (3) Failure to pay penalty assessed by the Commission (can be cured by paying the penalty within 3 business days).
<b><u>Pre-General Election Campaign Finance Reporting Schedule</u></b>	The 42-Day Pre-General Report did not exist prior to the 2008 elections and the 11-Day Pre-General Report replaces the 6-Day Pre-General Report.	<b>42-Day Pre-General Election Report and 11-Day Pre General Report</b> 42-Day Pre-General covers the period: 7/16/2008 thru 9/16/2008 11-Day Pre-General covers the period: 9/17/2008 thru 10/21/2008
<b>Time Deadline for Most Reports</b>	5:00 P.M.	<b>11:59 P.M.</b>
	The deadline for most campaign finance reports has been changed from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., except for accelerated reports.	
<b>24-Hour Reporting Period</b>	Starts 11 days before an election	<b>Starts 13 days before an election</b>

### ALL NEW FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

#### **Revocation of Certification**

Certification may be revoked at any time if a candidate or the candidate's agent:

- (1) Did not submit the required number of qualifying contributions
- (2) Did not qualify as a candidate by petition or other means
- (3) Submitted fraudulent qualifying contributions
- (4) Misrepresented to a contributor the purpose of the qualifying contribution or getting the person's signature
- (5) Did not comply with seed money restrictions
- (6) Accepted contributions or used funds other than MCEA funds after certification
- (7) Made false statements or material misrepresentations in a report or other document submitted to the Commission
- (8) Committed other substantial violations of campaign finance laws.

Revocation can only be made by a majority vote of the members of the Commission after an opportunity for a hearing. Candidate must return all unspent funds or entire amount of MCEA funds within 3 days of the revocation and may be subject to additional penalties.

#### **Sham Opponents**

A candidate seeking public funding or the candidate's agent may not assist another person to run against that candidate if it would mean that the candidate would get more MCEA funds as a contested candidate.

**For the complete statutory and regulatory changes, the Commission recommends that you go to the Commission's website: [www.maine.gov/ethics](http://www.maine.gov/ethics) and click on "Laws and Rules" in the left navigation menu.**